

## MEDALS

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### *Army*

The only medal officially awarded during the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, and Philippine Insurrection was the Medal of Honor. Between 1905 and 1919, the War Department authorized several campaign medals for service between 1861 and 1902. The National Archives, however, is not authorized to issue or determine eligibility for medals or awards. That function comes under the jurisdiction of the Commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, ATTN: TAPC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. The telephone number is 703-325-8700. Web site is [www.Perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm](http://www.Perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm).

The Army no longer manufactures, stocks, or issues the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish-American War, or Philippine Insurrection Campaign Medals. As there are no known living veterans who qualify for this award, there are no plans to manufacture more medals.

There are select files relating to soldiers who received medals of honor, but the term “Medal of Honor file” may be misleading. There is no series solely designated within the Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94, similar to compiled service records or pension files that documents the awarding of the Army Medal of Honor. Instead, files of correspondence relating to the Medal of Honor awards are scattered throughout several files of the AGO. The location of a honoree’s file within the AGO records depends largely on the rank of the individual and the date of application, as well as a myriad of other factors.

Many of the files are found in Letters Received, 1862–1889, Enlisted Branch of the AGO, RG 94, entry 409, where much of the correspondence regarding enlisted soldiers for 1862–1889 is located. Other record series that hold correspondence of Medal of Honor recipients include the Record and Pension Office (R&P) Document File, 1889–1904, RG 94, entry 501; Volunteer Service (VS) Letters Received, 1861–1889, RG 94, entry 496; AGO Document File, 1890–1917, RG 94, Entry 25; and Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (LR) (available on several microfilm publications depending upon the year). Of particular interest to researchers of Medal of Honor recipients in the U.S. Colored troops is the Letters Received, 1863–1888, of the Colored Troops Division, RG 94, entry 360.

An unpublished finding aid, “19th-Century Army Medals of Honor,” available to researchers at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, lists alphabetically Army Medal of Honor recipients between 1863 and 1904, along with their rank, the unit they served in at the time of their honored action, and the file number

For the years 1904–17, researchers should consult M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Office of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1890–1917*, and search for the name of the honoree. After locating the file number(s) from the index, order the corresponding paper files. Although several file entries may be found for one individual in the index, they are often consolidated into one file.

Visitors to the National Archives Building may consult the “19th-Century Army Medals of Honor” finding aid for recipients between 1862 to 1904, or consult M698, *Index to General Correspondence of the Office of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1890–1917*, for recipients from 1904 to 1917. There are two National Archives microfilm publications relating specifically to the Medal of Honor, M929, *Documents Relating to the Military and Naval Service of Blacks Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor From the Civil War to the Spanish American War*, and T732, *Records Relating to Military Service in the Civil War of Medal of Honor Winners From Michigan*.

Medal of Honor case files after 1917 are much more difficult to locate among the Army records at the National Archives. The War Department

did not consolidate recommendation papers and statements of witnesses into one file, and in many cases, the information is no longer extant or was transferred to an individual's military personnel file. The personnel files are among the holdings of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. If these documents do exist elsewhere, they may be included in the organizational files contained in several different record groups and may be among unit records housed in the Modern Military Records unit of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Information on other Army medals can be found in RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. Entry 256 provides name index cards for various series relating to the application or issuance of the following Army medals: Civil War Medal, Indian Wars Medal, Spanish War Campaign Medal, China Campaign Medal (China Relief Expedition), Philippine Campaign Medal, Philippine Congressional Medal, Mexican Service Medal, Mexican Border Service Medal, Army of Cuban Occupation Medal, Army of Puerto Rican Occupation Medal, and Cuban Pacification Medal. Later medals are listed in military personnel files at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

### *Navy*

There are several series in RG 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, that may or may not contain information relating to service men requesting or receiving the following Navy medals: Civil War Medal, West Indies Naval Campaign Medal, West Indies Campaign Medal, Spanish Campaign Medal, Philippine Campaign Medal, China Relief Expedition Medal, Cuban Pacification Medal, Nicaraguan Campaign Medal (1912), Mexican Service Medal, Haiti Campaign Medal (1915), Dominican Campaign Medal (1916), and the Haitian Campaign Medal (1919–20).

For correspondence files relating to the issuance of various medals consult RG 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, entry 88, General Correspondence, 1889–1913, and entry 89, General Correspondence, 1913–25. Both series are arranged chronologically and thereunder by file number.

For records relating to Navy Spanish-American War Medals consult RG 24, entry 99, Correspondence Relating to the Award of Spanish-American War Medals, 1905–07. This series consists mainly of memorandums, many of which were prepared for the Secretary of the Navy by the Chief of the Bureau, relating to claims made by officers and men regarding their eligibility for medals. This unarranged series also includes extracts from logs and muster rolls bearing on these claims, a few press copies of letters sent to the claimants by the Bureau, and letters received from the claimants.

Record Group 24, entry 67, Miscellaneous Letters Sent to or Relating to Navy Service Personnel, (“Miscel. Navy”), February 10, 1896–February 22, 1903, contains press copies of letters, including form letters and endorsements, sent to men either in or formerly in the Navy, mainly enlisted men and warrant officers seeking return to the service. The series includes some copies of letters of commendation for acts of heroism, such as rescues at sea; and copies of letters concerning medals. The series is arranged chronologically.

Record Group 24, entry 70, Letters Sent Relating to Navy Medals and Badges (“Medals and Badges”), November 3, 1908–December 27, 1911, includes press copies of letters relating mainly to awards made for participation in the Spanish, Philippine, China, and West Indian Campaigns and the Civil War. Most of this series consists of form letters used for transmitting free medals and badges to recipients, either directly or through their commanding officers. Also included are letters requesting proof of identity or granting permission to purchase badges and medals from commercial firms, letters refusing awards, and letters to manufacturing firms that sought contracts to manufacture medals and badges. The series is arranged chronologically.

Also of interest to researchers working on medals is RG 24, entry 20, Letters Sent to the Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, May 14, 1906–March 27, 1909. This series has press copies of letters sent concerning the ordering, alteration, and return of medals and the accompanying additional service bars that were awarded to Navy men for service in the West Indian Campaign of the Spanish-American War. The letters are arranged chronologically.

For records relating to Navy Medals of Honor consult RG 24, entry 85, Letters Received Relating to Medals of Honor, January 1, 1862–December 31, 1866. This series contains letters received from commanders of vessels and other officers on board ship and ashore and from the men to whom medals were awarded. The letters relate to transmittal of the medals or acknowledge their receipt. The series is arranged chronologically. For an index to this series consult entry 103, Registers of Letters Sent and Received (“Index to Correspondence”), July 1862–December 1890.

Also, the “NH” file in RG 45, entry 464, Old Subject File and New Subject File, contains two series with records relating to Navy and Marine Corps medals.

#### *Additional Sources of Information*

Army, Department of the, Public Information Division. *The Medal of Honor of the United States Army*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1948.

Kerrigan, Evans E. *American War Medals and Decorations*, New York: The Viking Press, 1964.

Lang, George, Raymond L. Collins, Gerard F. White, comps., *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863–1994*, (2 Vols.), New York: Facts on File, 1995.

Mollan, Mark C. “The Army Medal of Honor: The First Fifty-five Years,” *Prologue*, Summer 2001, Vol. 33, No. 2.

#### *Internet Source*

Medal of Honor citations for all services are available at [www.army.mil/cmh-pg/Moh1.htm](http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/Moh1.htm)